

The Examiner has also rejected claim 22, 24-26, 31, 33, and 34 as being obvious over the Dutch patent. The Examiner has stated that there is no data comparing the activity of calcium lignin sulphonate with overbased calcium lignin sulphonate in an agricultural application. Applicant notes that what is claimed here is an overbased sulphonate and not an overbased calcium lignin sulphonate which, to Applicant's knowledge does not exist. The Examiner should note the structure of an overbased sulphonate in Figure 5 of the subject application. This compound is not equivalent in structure or properties to calcium lignin sulphonate and thus there is no suggestion in the Dutch patent to use an overbased sulphonate. Applicant does not know if overbased calcium lignin sulphonate exists. Were one to use calcium lignin sulphonate with the carrier oil of Applicant, the subject invention would not be attained. Further, as now amended, the claim recites that the oil soluble basic compound is added in an amount sufficient to neutralize acidic compounds present in the carrier. Such would not be possible with the use of calcium lignin sulphonate, since it is at best neutral and generally slightly acidic as indicated in the previous amendment.


The Examiner has rejected claims 22, 24-27, 31, 33-35, 38 and 40-42, as being obvious according to Parham and the Dutch patent in combination. Applicant traverses this rejection for the same reasons set forth above, i.e., Parham does not teach a oil which is neutralized by an oil soluble basic compound, nor does it teach an oil for use as a carrier (claim 22). Further, the Dutch patent does not cure this deficiency. Further, the oil soluble UV activators recited in claim 27 are not taught or suggested by either the Dutch patent or Parham. As a result, Applicant believes that claims 22- 24-27, 31, 33-35, 38, and 40-42 are each allowable.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and allowance.

With the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

By 

Gerald T. Shekleton
Registration No. 27,466

Date: September 17, 2001

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza 22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3913
Telephone: 312/655-1500

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

22. (Three Times Amended) [An agricultural spray oil] An oil for use as a carrier in agricultural sprays, said carrier having reduced phytotoxicity and having added thereto an oil soluble base [compound that is] in an amount sufficient to neutralize acidic compounds present in said carrier, said carrier selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an overbased sulphonate;
- (b) an overbased phenate; and
- (c) an alkyl-amine.

27. (Three Times Amended) [A agricultural spray oil] An oil for use as a carrier in agricultural sprays, said carrier having reduced phytotoxicity properties, said oil [and]

having added thereto an oil soluble UV deactivator for the reduction of photo oxidation, said UV deactivator being [that is] :

a zinc diamyldithio carbamate; or
a benzoxazole, benzotriazole or benzthiazole compound, other than the compound 2-mercaptobenzothiazole.